

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A method for killing organisms and removing of toxic substances from an enclosure, which comprises the steps of:

providing at least one ingress duct communicating with said interior of said enclosure;

heating an environmentally acceptable gas to a temperature lethal to organisms comprising insects and at least one of fungi and bacteria;

directing said heated gas into said enclosure through said at least one ingress duct for a time sufficient to raise the temperature of said enclosure to said lethal temperature to thereby kill said organisms; and

applying a pressure differential to said enclosure relative to atmospheric pressure to draw said heated gas out of said enclosure;

extracting filtering said heated gas to remove from said enclosure any fine particulate remains from said organisms that are suspended in the heated gas from said enclosure by filtering said heated gas to remove suspended particulates during at least a substantial portion of said directing step; and

exhausting said filtered heated gas from said enclosure to an external environment such that the particulate remains are substantially removed from said heated gas before its exhaustion.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein said extracting step further includes passing said heated gas through a HEPA filter.

20. (Currently amended) A method for sanitizing an enclosed structure having an exterior and an interior, comprising the steps of:

disposing ~~a plurality of~~ at least one temperature-indicating ~~probes~~ device within said enclosed structure;

heating a gas;

directing heated gas within said enclosed structure so as to maintain a flow of said heated gas within said enclosed structure;

monitoring the temperature within said enclosure using said ~~probes~~ at least one temperature-indicating device during at least a ~~substantial~~ portion of said directing step, to determine when said enclosed structure reaches a sufficiently high temperature for sanitizing said enclosed structure; ~~and~~

filtering said heated gas to remove suspended particulates in the heated gas from said enclosed structure during at least a substantial portion of said directing step; and

exhausting said heated gas from said enclosed structure by applying a vacuum to said enclosed structure so as to draw the suspended particulates out of said enclosed structure, wherein the suspended particulates are substantially removed from said heated gas before exhaustion from said enclosure.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said sufficiently high temperature is at least about 120°F.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said filtering step further comprises passing said heated gas through a HEPA filter.

23. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said filtering step further comprises drawing a vented portion of said heated gas through a filter.

24–25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A method for exterminating toxic organisms in a structure, said method comprising the steps of:

heating a gas;

directing said heated gas in an interior portion of an enclosed structure so as to heat at least said interior portion to a temperature that is hot enough, when maintained for a period of time, to kill toxic organisms comprising at least one of fungi and bacteria;

maintaining an interior of said enclosed structure at not less than said temperature for not less than said period of time; and

filtering said heated gas from said enclosed structure during at least a substantial portion of said maintaining step using a filter operable to capture suspended remains of said toxic organisms; and

exhausting said heated gas from said enclosed structure by applying a vacuum to said enclosed structure so as to draw the suspended remains out of said enclosure, wherein the suspended particulates are substantially removed from said heated gas before exhaustion from said enclosure.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said temperature is at least about 120°F.

28. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 26, further comprising disposing a ~~plurality of~~ at least one temperature-indicating ~~probes~~ probe to monitor temperature at ~~different locations~~ at least one location within said enclosed structure.

29. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 28, further comprising connecting said at least one temperature-indicating ~~probes~~ probe to a console disposed outside said enclosed structure.

30. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said filtering step further comprises passing said heated gas through said filter, said filter comprising a HEPA filter.

31-35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said filtering step further comprises drawing said heated gas through the filter using a downstream blower.

37. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said filtering step further comprises removing said heated gas from said interior portion of said structure during at least a portion of said filtering step.

38. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 37, further comprising returning filtered gas to said interior portion after said filtering step.

39. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 26, wherein the exhausting step further comprising comprises applying a suction downstream of said filter.

40. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein said heating step is performed outside said enclosed structure.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein said directing step further comprises directing said heated gas into said interior portion using at least one duct.

43. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein said maintaining step further comprises maintaining said temperature for not less than about one hour.

44. (New) The method of Claim 18, further comprising covering heat sensitive items within the enclosure with thermal insulation material.

45. (New) The method of Claim 18, further comprising remotely monitoring temperature within said enclosure.

46. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the monitoring further comprises communicating at least one temperature signal wirelessly to a console located outside said enclosure.

47. (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein the monitoring step further comprises communicating at least one temperature signal wirelessly to a console located outside the enclosed structure.

48. (New) The method of Claim 20, further comprising covering heat sensitive items within the enclosed structure with thermal insulation material.

49. (New) The method of Claim 26, further comprising covering heat sensitive items within the enclosed structure with thermal insulation material.

50. (New) The method of Claim 18, further comprising monitoring temperature at at least one location within the enclosure.

51. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein the monitoring further comprises disposing at least one temperature-sensitive probe within the enclosure.

52. (New) The method of Claim 51, wherein the monitoring further comprises communicating a signal from the at least one temperature-sensitive probe to a console located outside the enclosure.

53. (New) The method of Claim 26, further comprising monitoring temperature at at least one location within the structure.

54. (New) The method of Claim 53, wherein the monitoring further comprises disposing at least one temperature-sensitive probe within the structure.

55. (New) The method of Claim 54, wherein the monitoring further comprises communicating a signal from the at least one temperature-sensitive probe to a console located outside the structure.